

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Grant Davidson
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Tēnā koe Grant

Thank you for your letter of 4 April 2019, regarding our meeting of 2 April 2019 and the current Reform of Vocation Education (RoVE) proposals being considered. I am also responding to your letter of the 29 March 2019 to the Right Honourable, Jacinda Ardern as the matter you raised falls within my portfolio of responsibilities,

Like you, we valued the opportunity to sit down, engage constructively, and discuss what these changes might mean for the vocational education sector, and the opportunities this creates to build a better vocational education system.

As said during the discussion, we acknowledge that there is concern about the pace of the reform and the consultation process. However, as explained, this is necessary to arrive at a decision as soon as possible that provides some certainty for everyone involved in the vocational training sector as to the direction of the reforms.

I note your request that the Proposal 1 process (Industry Skill Bodies) be postponed to allow a working group to be convened, to design a model on behalf of the industry training organisations (ITOs), industry, and iwi, and then report back to the Government. I consider that we are effectively working through this process now and will continue to do so over the coming months.

Aside from the consultation feedback received (which is currently being considered), we have engaged directly with ITO's and industry both individually and through various associations and groups. Now that the initial consultation process has concluded, myself and the RoVE team will continue to reach out to stakeholders, as we work through initial decisions and the design work that follows. I look forward to your continued engagement and constructive involvement in the process.

In relation to any intended legal response on your part – that decision is yours alone to consider.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CHIPKINS'.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Cc: Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education